

Hampden County Sheriff's Department Completes Major Energy and Water Conservation Project

\$550,000 in annual energy and water cost savings fund the cost of necessary infrastructure upgrades

Ludlow, Mass., Sept. 15, 2008 -- The Hampden County Sheriff's Department and the State's Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) recently completed a 2-year energy and water conservation project that will greatly reduce energy costs and the facility's environmental impact. Working with Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group, the Hampden County Sheriff's Department and DCAM made significant improvements in the energy efficiency of its buildings and infrastructure—measures that will reduce power and water costs by approximately \$550,000 annually. Savings created by the initiative are used to fund the cost of the new infrastructure, resulting in no upfront costs for taxpayers. The conservation efforts at the correctional facility and administrative offices also qualified the project for more than \$205,000 in utility rebates from Western Massachusetts Electric Company and Bay State Gas. The energy and water efficiency retrofit was accomplished using contractors based in Hampden County and Massachusetts.

"We're successfully addressing both rising energy costs and the environmental impact of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department with this initiative," said Sheriff Michael Ashe, Hampden County Sheriff's Department. "What is most significant about this conservation project is that by working with Constellation Energy, the state of Massachusetts and our utility partners, we were able to use the savings created by the improvements to finance the upgrades."

Improvements were made facility-wide, from additional building insulation, to installation of low-flow faucets and showers, fluorescent lighting, and smart, centralized climate control and energy management systems. Altogether, more than 4,400 light fixtures, 1,400 water fixtures and 50 rooftop air handling systems were upgraded as part of the project.

"This was a tremendous collaboration between the Hampden Sheriff, DCAM, Constellation Energy, and the utility companies," said DCAM's Commissioner David B. Perini. "The project enabled Sheriff Ashe to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28% at the facility, and it is a great example of how agencies can work together with private vendors and utilities to meet the ambitious targets laid out in the Governor's Executive Order 484."

Under the Administration's Executive Order, issued last spring by Governor Deval Patrick, state agencies are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% and energy use by 20% by 2012.

"We left no stone unturned in finding ways to improve the efficiency of Hampden County's facilities," said Robert Belyea, business development manager for Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group in Lowell, Mass. "We evaluated every aspect of the facility to determine where upgrades could result in conservation of energy and water, and then we deployed the latest in high efficiency technologies and smart systems to reduce usage. Even incremental improvements can really add up to major savings over time."

In many cases, simply updating equipment that was more than two decades old resulted in savings. The correctional facility's kitchen hood controls, for instance, were replaced with ventilation fans that operate only when they detect smoke or steam from cooking activities. This measure greatly reduced loss of climate controlled air vented to the exterior by fans running unnecessarily during general operation of the equipment.

Western Massachusetts Electric Company provided \$105,000 and Bay State Gas provided \$100,000 in energy efficiency rebates for the project.

"WMECO is proud to partner with the Hampden County Sheriff's Department in helping their facility save both energy and operating costs. Their 'soup-to-nuts' energy efficiency upgrades will save millions of dollars in energy costs in the near future, and WMECO is pleased to have had a role in the project's success. Hampden County Sheriff's Department's commitment to the environment and saving taxpayer dollars will produce impressive results," said Rodney Powell, president of WMECO.

"We are extremely pleased to be part of this comprehensive energy efficiency effort," said Bay State's Derek Buchler, manager of Demand Side Management. "Engineering estimates indicate that the Hampden County Sheriff's Department can expect to save almost 138,000 therms in the first year and have a lifetime savings estimated at almost 1,275,000 therms. This is enough energy to heat over 1000 homes for an entire year. This project also highlights the cooperation between Bay State Gas, its public sector customers, Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and the state sponsored energy efficiency programs. Collectively, we have the ability to take control of energy costs."

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